

Message Text

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EXDIS

SECTO 04

DEPT PASS NATO CAPITALS, NATO, USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

1. SECRETARY MET WITH BRANDT AND SCHEEL INFORMALLY FOR 2-1/2 HOURS IN BONN SUNDAY, MARCH 24. PRESENT ON US SIDE WERE SECRETARY, HILLENBRAND, HARTMAN, SONNENFELDT AND RODMAN; ON FRG SIDE BRANDT (FOR FIRST 40 MINUTES), SCHEEL, VAN WELL, FRANK AND HERMES.

2. MAIN SUBJECT WAS EC-US POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. SCHEEL OUTLINED GERMAN PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL: INITIAL FORMATION OF OPINIONS IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THEN CONSULTATIVE AND COORDINATION WITH US, TO BE FACTORED BACK INTO EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, THEN WITH POSSIBLE UNSETTLED ISSUES TO BE TAKEN UP IN CONSULTATION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE APPROACH AND WOULD BE BIG STEP FORWARD OVER WHAT NOW EXISTS. HOWEVER, ANSWER WOULD LIE NOT IN FORMALISTIC PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD THEMSELVES REFLECT BADLY ON QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIP; KEY WAS CONTENT OF POLICIES. EUROPEAN POLICIES IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO US POLICIES, AS SEEMED TO BE CASE IN SOME RESPECTS IN MIDDLE EAST, WOULD BE DESTRUCTIVE. SECOND PROBLEM WAS GENERAL ONE THAT SOME IN EUROPE SEEMED TO DEFINE EUROPEAN IDENTITY NECESSARILY BY SEPARATION FROM US, REGARDLESS OF MERITS OF

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CASE. SCHEEL EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT FRG POLICY AND

SECRETARY OBSERVED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FRG IS NO PROBLEM. THOUGH SCHEEL STRESSED NECESSITY OF NOT ABANDONING PROCESS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, HE AGREED IT HAD NO FUTURE EXCEPT AS PART OF ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK.

3. EVEN IF DECLARATION ABANDONED, WHICH THEY WOULD REGRET, BRANDT AND SCHEEL HOPED THERE WOULD BE WAY FOR ALLIANCE TO COMMEMORATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY. SAID CALLAGHAN HAD SAME VIEW. THEY HOPE THAT LUNS WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CALL TOGETHER FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR CEREMONIAL MEETING. SECRETARY DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS IDEA.

4. ON MIDDLE EAST, SECRETARY EXPLAINED US FOUND ITSELF IN UNIQUE POSITION TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL AND THEREFORE TO PROMOTE PROGRESS. US HAS NO DESIRE TO EXCLUDE ALLIES AND IN FACT WELCOMES TIES BETWEEN ALLIES, PARTICULARLY FRG, AND ARAB COUNTRIES. US SHOULD NOT BE ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY WITH LINKS IN MIDDLE EAST. US WELCOMED BRANDT'S TRIP THERE AND HAD TOLD SADAT THIS.

5. ON MBFR, SCHEEL INDICATED GERMANS WERE LESS CONCERNED WITH EXTENT OF INITIAL PHASE US AND SOVIET CUTS, SO LONG AS INITIAL PHASE WAS CONFINED TO US AND SOVIETS, TIED TO SECOND PHASE WHICH STUCK TO COMMON CEILING APPROACH AND DID NOT SINGLE OUT FRG. GERMANS WISHED FORMULA ALONG LINES OF "ALL FULL PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE WOULD SHARE IN REDUCTIONS." ON BERLIN, SCHEEL STATED THAT FRG WOULD ACT IN FUTURE ONLY AFTER PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH WESTERN POWERS.
KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NATO CAPITALS, NATO OR USEC.

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